

As to the boundaries of the Himálayan system he says: »For our part we accept the popular definition of the Himálaya as extending from the gorge of the Indus on the west to that of the Brahmaputra on the east, and from the upper courses of the main branches of those rivers on the north to the plains of India on the south, speaking of its connections beyond those limits as the western and eastern extensions respectively.»¹

When Atkinson regards the upper courses of the Indus and Brahmaputra as the northern boundary of the Himalaya, he is no doubt right. But further on in his great work he says that the limits can be extended both east, west and north.² When extending the boundary to the north, it would mean that the Transhimalaya should be included, which, so far as I can see, is both unnecessary and impractical.

Speaking of the rivers he says: »We thus see that the northern crest of the table-land or the summit of its northern slope practically forms the water-parting between the rivers that flow southwards and those that lose themselves in the plain of Gobi.» He has a distinct feeling of the existence of a circular water-parting all round the interior of Tibet. Its northern section he calls, with Henry Strachey, the Turkistan, its southern section the Indian water-parting.

He has found that the water-parting of the Indus follows the Hindo-kush 300 miles and then the Muztagh range, — for the name Karakorum should only be restricted to the Pass —, »but cuts through it around by the Karakorum pass to the north, so as to include the tributaries of the Shayok, and proceeds in a south-easterly direction by the Aling-Gang-ri to its junction with the Gangri at Kailás, where a transverse ridge separates the head-waters of the Indus, the Brahmaputra, and the Trans-Himálayan feeder of the Ganges system».

In the following passage, where he comes into more intimate contact with the Transhimalaya, there is much both true and wrong, for his sources are the Pundits' real observations as well as their and Saunders' theories, with which he treats as if they were. Gospel: »The Brahmaputra basin in its full extent has not been explored, but sufficient evidence has been collected by recent travellers to show that from the water-parting between the sources of the Brahmaputra and the Indus, the northern water-parting of the former river continues in a range of lofty peaks on its left bank to the bend towards the south, by which it reaches the plains of India. This range has a direction south-east, and to the west of the 86th meridian is sufficiently distant from the Brahmaputra to allow of such affluents as the Chachu and the Charta rivers. About the 86th meridian, a line of peaks culminating in the Tártot La stretches in a north-easterly direction to the Gyákhárma group of peaks, south-east of the Kyáring lake, one of the sources of the Nák-chu-kha. The drainage of the southern slope of the range is sent by the Dumphu-chu into the Kyáring lake, so that the northern

¹ Op. cit. p. 16.

² Op. cit. p. 60.